General Testing Tips & Strategies

Planning your Course of Study

Step 1: Learn what the test covers. Read the test profile (NES) and objectives (AEPA). Make sure you answer the sample questions. Assess your content knowledge by following these tips:

- Examine the entire test framework for each test you are taking to get a general picture of the materials the test covers. Percentages of content covered are derived from this test framework.
- Read each competency and its descriptive statements carefully to obtain a thorough understanding of the content knowledge you will be required to demonstrate.
- Answer all sample test questions for the test you are taking.

Step 2: Develop a preparation plan to focus your studies.

- **STUDY THE CONTENT STANDARDS RELATED TO YOUR EXAM**
- Identify the most appropriate resources. These may include textbooks from courses you have taken, class notes, materials, publications from professional educational organizations or resources from your preparation program or public library.
- Develop a study schedule. Consider reviewing a book on study-skills development or studying with other people who will be taking the test by forming a study group.

Step 3: Study Strategies:

- Fully understand the test objectives (AEPA) and/or test profile (NES).
- Review the approximate percentage of how the test score is derived.
- Investigate each content domain and learning competency in its entirety. You should be completing a self-assessment for each domain.
- **GATHER THE CONTENT STANDARDS RELATED TO YOUR EXAM!!!**
- Refer to your course materials. Did you take a course in which the content area was covered? Review textbooks, notes or other resources from the course. Check your preparation program or local library for text books
- Purchase the Full-Length Practice Test or the Comprehensive Study guide from the testing website if you choose.

Step 4: Schedule a testing date while providing sufficient time to plan and prepare for the exam.

Professional Knowledge Exams	Content Knowledge Exams
• Pedagogy Based	• Specific to your content/teaching focus
• Student Development & Learning	• Must have to be considered "Highly Qualified"
• Assessment, Instruction & Learning Environment	• Candidates seeking AZ Teacher Certification must pass exam
• The Professional Environment	• Directly tied to the standards. These can be found at www.azed.gov/standards-practices/
• Constructed Response Required/3 years full time teaching can waive this exam	• Computer based, timed test

Helpful Links:

AEPA EXAMS:	http://www.aepa.nesinc.com/?vm=r
NES EXAMS:	http://www.nestest.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Arizona.html
STANDARDS:	http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/
ARIZONA EXAMS:	http://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/az-ed-exams/
ARIZONA CERTIFICATION:	http://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/